

PEACEPRESS



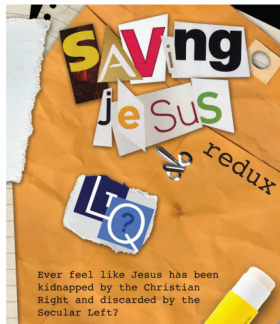
Hello, September

Pastor's Perspective

As I write this, it is the first day of school for the Guilford County public school system. Photos of beloved children heading off with backpacks full are now dominating my Facebook feed. For parents, it's a bittersweet day as the summer vacation comes to an end and yet another school year begins.

For the Christian church, this time of year is also a kind of new beginning. Traditionally we recognize this transition time with Rally Day (September 17th), the beginning of our stewardship campaign in October, and then looking just over the horizon, to the Christmas season with the birth of Christ when our Christian story really begins. So, there is much to look forward to!

One particular activity I am looking forward to is the Tuesday evening video discussion group that will begin on September 19th and run through October 24th. Part 1 of this six-week program will focus on the life and teachings of Jesus through the "Living the Questions" DVD series called "Saving Jesus."



Each session includes a 30 minute video followed by prayer and discussion. Contributing scholars include Brian McLaren, Diana Butler Bass, Marcus Borg, Walter Brueggemann, and Amy Jill-Levine among many others. Part 2 of this study program will be held after Christmas during January and February. Each session will be held in the Preparation Room beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a

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simple meal of soup and bread, concluding by 8:00 p.m.

As I mentioned in my August 27th sermon, some quarters of the Christian world have begun to turn their back on Jesus, his teachings, and ministry. This is not only wrong but deeply disturbing to the integrity of our faith. "Living the Questions: Saving Jesus" will allow participants the opportunity to take a "deep dive" into the life, times, and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. This series will no doubt be challenging and eye-opening, but ultimately faithfully invigorating for those who desire a deeper relationship with Christ and a better understanding of what he was all about. Jesus presents a deep challenge to our modern world of violence, hatred, and despair, and this DVD series examines the essence of the first-century Jesus movement and its living of the Kingdom of God.

There is much to look forward to as we begin our early entrance into the months of autumn before us. May this truly be a time of hope, personal growth, and deepening faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

I look forward to seeing you all in church!!

Blessings,
Pastor Tom

A Note from Elisabeth

The choir has not sung special music for Advent and Christmas since 2019. That year our cantata was **Together for Christmas** by Pepper Choplin, and we sang on December 15th. That's four years ago! We are hoping to sing some special songs this year during the Advent/Christmas season which begins on December 3rd. We are working on selections from the

cantata, **I Hear the Prophet Callin'** also by Pepper Choplin. We have sung this in the past which means it may be familiar to anyone who has sung in the choir before. The songs are on the OneLicense list, so we can legally use them during worship. Please know we would welcome others to join us as we learn our Christmas music. The choir meets on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, and we have plenty of music. We also purchased the part-dominant reproducible CDs which make personal home or car rehearsals possible. If you have any questions, please ask. We'd love to have you sing with us. The choir anthems are not a performance – they are a shared worship experience. Come share with us!

As I began writing this on Monday, August 7th, we had had communion in worship the day before. I try to choose familiar hymns to play during the serving of communion on first Sundays, sometimes from **The Lord's Supper** section of our hymnal and sometimes from other sections. I would like to encourage you to meditate on the words of these hymns or even sing as they are played. Everything we do in the service should focus us on the worship of God, and this includes all our hymns.

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship held their luncheon at Mimi's Cafe August 8th.

This group of fabulous ladies meet the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. They would love for you to join them for devotions, fellowship, and discussions. Next meeting is September 5th.



New Members - Yea!

We are happy to welcome Nora Norred and Jane Ford to our Hands-On ranks. You should join them on Sept. 13. See you in the Fellowship Hall at 1 PM. A good time is had by all.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 7th - Madeline Owen
- 11th - Joe Small
- 14th - Keegan Goode
- 15th - Cynthia Bowen
- 15th - Darrell Clark
- 15th - Tom Warren
- 20th - Sue Brittain
- 22nd - Sylvia Lippard
- Doris Yeattes

Mission of the Month: Crop Hunger Walk

Peace Church is gearing up for the annual Greater Greensboro Crop Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 8th at the Greensboro Coliseum. We're participating in the CROP Walk to support CWS and help families who are struggling with hunger. Peace Church has been an active participant for over 30 years and we're asking you to join us - with your steps and your donations - to provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them, and greater food security in communities around the world.

So far Pastor Tom, Russ and Karen Haver, Anne Badgett, Audrey Summers, and Melinda Summers have signed up to walk. We welcome others to join us. We have a wonderful time walking together to feed and change the world!

There are several ways to donate to this worthy cause. The first is to go to the website <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023> and type Peace United Church of Christ in the search box in the top right corner. You will be directed to our page. There are two places where you can donate online. Or write a check to **Crop Walk** and mail your donation to the church or place your donation in the offering plate. The church's goal is to raise \$2,000.



Solar Panel Update

Our solar panel system has been installed! We anticipate the entire system being "wired-up" in the next few weeks and then the final inspections by the city of Greensboro before we are ready to "flip the switch"!!



Please check out the wonderful Solar Panel Fund Chart that Eileen Johnson made in the narthex. We have raised \$23,610.00 with our goal being \$35,293.00.

There is still time to purchase a solar panel in honor or memory of a loved one.



Gisela Maria Lavastida Approved for 'Member in Discernment' Status!!

On Wednesday, August 17th, Gisela Maria Lavastida met via Zoom with the WNCA Committee on Ministry to discuss her request to be approved as a "Member in Discernment".



A "Member In Discernment" is a UCC member in good standing in a local congregation who feels the call to ordained ministry. Gisela Maria, a member of Peace Church, recently graduated from Matanzas Theological Seminary in Cuba with a Bachelor's degree in Theology. She is now going on for a "licensure" degree which in the Cuban denominational system, prepares her to be ready to serve a local church as a pastor or in a related position.

Gisela Maria will be working closely with the WNCA Committee on Ministry which will oversee, support, and nurture her on the journey toward ordination in the United Church of Christ. This process typically takes some time, and we hope as part of this process that Gisela Maria will be able to visit us here in Greensboro to worship and meet face-to-face with the Committee on Ministry.

We congratulate Gisela Maria on her new "Member In Discernment" status and look forward to our continuing relationship as she walks with God and all of us in the journey toward ordination.

--Tom Warren

Members Share Summer Vacation Memories



Left: Jane Ford's granddaughters came to help her move out of her house and into Friends Homes.



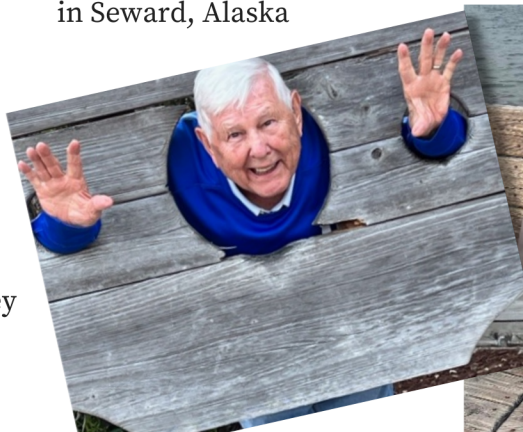
Jane Ford and friend at the Lego exhibition in Raleigh. (Right)



Miller-Warren Family Kayaking at Bear Glacier in Seward, Alaska



Mt. Denali in Alaska



David in the Pokey



Patty and David living the life in Nags Head.



Summers Family strolling the river walk in Savannah, GA.

Western N.C. Association

The Western N.C. Association will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 7 at Abernethy Laurels in Newton. The theme is “**Forward Together in Christ**” and is taken from the words found in Philippians 3:13b-14. “Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” The Association’s desire is “to come together to celebrate our communion in

There will be workshops on various topics such as stewardship and finances for the local church, the church and climate change, mental health and the church as a place for hope and healing, and a session for clergy. The Association also plans to introduce new initiatives for the growth and strengthening of our churches. Each workshop will be offered twice to allow more choices for attendees. At the close of the meeting, participants will gather for worship with a sermon based on the theme, Holy Communion, and the installation and commissioning of new board members and committee members. Peace Church is entitled to send two lay delegates to the Association Annual Meeting.

Registration for the Annual Meeting will be through Eventbrite. The link for the registration is on the Southern Conference website (<https://www.soc-ucc.org/>). The registration fee, which includes lunch, is \$25 per attendee. Organizers of the meeting ask those attending to please indicate your preference for lunch when registering so the staff at Abernethy Laurels can make the proper preparations for the meal.

Department of Labor Tells of Labor Day Beginnings

Observed the first Monday in September, Labor Day is an annual celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers. The holiday is rooted in the late nineteenth century when labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions workers have made to America’s strength, prosperity, and well-being.

Before it was a federal holiday, Labor Day was recognized by labor activists and individual states. After municipal ordinances were passed in 1885 and 1886, a movement developed to secure state legislation. New York was the first state to introduce a bill, but Oregon was the first to pass a law recognizing Labor Day, on February 21, 1887. By 1894, 23 more states had adopted the holiday, and on June 28, 1894, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday.

Who first proposed the holiday for workers? It’s not entirely clear, but two workers can make a solid claim to the Founder of Labor Day title. Some records show that in 1882, Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, suggested setting aside a day for a "general holiday for the laboring classes" to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold." But Peter McGuire's place in Labor Day history has not gone unchallenged. Many believe that machinist Matthew Maguire, not Peter McGuire, founded the holiday. Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, New Jersey, proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. According to the New Jersey Historical Society, after President Cleveland signed the law creating a national Labor Day, the Paterson Morning Call published an opinion piece stating that "the souvenir pen should go to Alderman Matthew Maguire of this city, who is the undisputed author of Labor Day as a holiday." Both Maguire and McGuire attended the country’s first Labor Day parade in New York City that year.

---(taken from the Labor Dept website <https://www.dol.gov/general/laborday/history#>)

- **Monday, September 4**

The church office is closed for Labor Day.

- **Tuesday, September 5**

Women’s Fellowship meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor.

- **Wednesday, September 13**

Hands-On pillow ministry meets at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Important Dates



- **Sunday, September 17**

Rally Day Service.

- **Tuesday, September 19**

Guilford UCC Clergy Group meets at 10:30 a.m. in the Preparation Room.

“Living the Questions: Saving Jesus” 12-part DVD program examining the life of Jesus will meet at 6:00 p.m. every Tuesday through October 24th.

Peace United Church of Christ - Greensboro NC
Treasurer's Report as of July 2023 for General Fund

Thursday, August 3, 2023

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Offerings					
4001	Pledges	9,607.50	69,049.10	117,110.00	48,060.90
4003	Loose Offerings	106.00	779.00	500.00	(279.00)
4004	Initial Offerings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4006	Non-Pledged Offerings	25.00	4,710.00	25,870.00	21,160.00
4007	Sunday School	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
	Total Offerings	\$9,738.50	\$74,538.10	\$143,580.00	\$69,041.90
Fundraising					
4102	Jambalaya	0.00	3,200.00	4,000.00	800.00
4104	Yard Sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4106	Brunswick Stew	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
4121	History Room	0.00	600.00		
	Total Fundraising	\$0.00	\$3,800.00	\$7,000.00	\$3,800.00
Special Offerings					
4009	Communion	0.00	(92.60)	100.00	192.60
4108	Birthday/Thank You	0.00	50.00	100.00	50.00
4110	Christmas	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
4112	Easter	0.00	45.00	50.00	5.00
4114	Memorials	0.00	590.00	0.00	(590.00)
4116	Thanksgiving	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Special Offerings	\$0.00	\$592.40	\$350.00	(\$242.40)
Other Services					
4118	Weddings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Other Services	\$0.00	\$0.0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Income					
Facility Use Donations					
4124	New Arrivals Institute	0.00	15,000.00	30,360.00	15,360.00
4126	Narcotics Anonymous	75.00	525.00	3,000.00	2,475.00
4128	Alliance Church	250.00	1,750.00	3,000.00	1,250.00
4130	Fellowship Hall Use	150.00	750.00	1,000.00	250.00
	Total Facilities Use Donations	\$475.00	\$18,025.00	\$37,360.00	\$19,335.00
4122	Miscellaneous Income	(741.90)	3,219.44	0.00	(3,219.44)
4123	Sales Tax Refund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Miscellaneous Income	(\$266.90)	\$21,244.44	\$37,360.00	\$16,115.56
4109	Easter Lilies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4111	Flower Fund (Covid Worship)	0.00	200.00		

Peace United Church of Christ - Greensboro NC
Treasurer's Report as of July 2023 for General Fund

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
4115	Community Event Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Offering Income		\$9,471.60	\$100,374.94	\$188,290.00	\$88,715.06
Expenses					
Missions					
5001	OCWM	1,000.00	2,000.00		
5003	Community Outreach Publicity	0.00	333.99	400.00	66.01
5005	Community Outreach Events	0.00	37.85	150.00	112.15
Total Missions		\$1,000.00	\$2,371.84	\$550.00	\$178.16
Consistory					
5101	PeaceCare	33.00	219.31	350.00	130.69
5103	Membership Growth	0.00	0.00	700.00	700.00
5104	Membership Support	140.00	140.00	800.00	660.00
5105	Worship Committee	240.00	1,083.69	1,700.00	616.31
5106	Stewardship	0.00	70.69	250.00	179.31
Total Consistory		\$413.00	\$1,513.69	\$3,800.00	\$2,286.31
Christian Ed					
5117	Christian Ed Literature/Supplies	0.00	30.00	400.00	370.00
5119	Youth Fellowship	325.00	451.94	500.00	48.06
Total Christian Ed		\$325.00	\$481.94	\$900.00	\$418.06
Property					
5210	Janitorial	700.00	4,900.00	8,800.00	3,900.00
5212	Grounds	416.67	2,916.69	5,417.00	2,500.31
5214	Property Insurance	1,243.92	8,401.68	16,000.00	7,598.32
5216	Building Equipment/Maintenance	772.66	4,920.14	10,000.00	5,079.86
5217	Boiler Maintenance	751.52	6,630.10	15,000.00	8,369.90
5219	ADT Security	53.75	63.74	600.00	536.26
5221	Supplies	104.92	278.69	1,000.00	721.31
Total Property		\$4,043.44	\$28,111.04	\$56,817.00	\$28,705.96
Administration					
5401	Postage	95.67	604.62	1,300.00	695.38
5403	Office Equipment Lease	182.42	1,826.98	4,000.00	2,173.02
5405	Computer Software/Maintenance	280.12	333.48	1,000.00	666.52
5407	Telephone/Internet	248.86	1,748.18	3,100.00	1,351.82
5409	Office Supplies	116.22	987.60	1,500.00	512.40
5410	Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	130.38	1,000.00	869.62
5412	Bank Charges	48.34	296.06	600.00	303.94

Peace United Church of Christ - Greensboro NC
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Account #Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining	
Total Administration		\$971.63	\$5,927.30	\$12,500.00	\$6,572.70
Utilities					
5301 Gas	722.00	6,663.00	15,000.00	8,337.00	
5303 Electricity	795.99	5,933.50	11,500.00	5,566.50	
5304 Water	415.76	2,833.92	7,000.00	4,166.08	
Total Utilities		\$1,933.75	\$15,430.42	\$33,500.00	\$18,069.58
Pastoral Compensation					
5501Cash Salary	2,790.84	19,535.88	33,491.00	13,955.12	
5503 Housing Allowance	1,416.66	9,916.62	17,000.00	7,083.38	
5505 Social Security Reimb.	338.76	2,354.44	4,065.00	1,710.56	
5507 Annuity	0.00	3,281.85	7,069.00	3,787.15	
5509 Insurance	0.00	10,472.22	23,000.00	12,527.78	
5510 Medical Reimb.	0.00	608.03	2,500.00	1,891.97	
5511 Mileage Reimb.	279.50	458.25	500.00	41.75	
Total Pastoral Compensation		\$4,825.76	\$46,627.29	\$87,625.00	\$40,997.71
Personnel					
5601 Organist/Dir of Music	1,500.00	9,100.00	15,600.00	6,500.00	
5603 Secretary	0.00	4,014.00	18,720.00	14,706.00	
5604 Office Support	1,230.00	6,560.00	0.00	(6,560.00)	
5605 Nursery Attendant	0.00	265.50	1,800.00	1,534.50	
5607 Youth Leadership	0.00	2,754.00	9,360.00	6,606.00	
Total Personnel		\$2,730.00	\$22,693.50	\$45,480.00	\$22,786.50
Personnel Benefits					
5611 Social Security Exp.	208.84	1,736.08	3,479.00	1,742.92	
5614 Worker's Comp Insurance	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	
5618 Conference & Meetings	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	
Total Personnel Benefits		\$408.84	\$1,936.08	\$4,879.00	\$2,942.92
Fundraising Expenses					
5701 Jambalaya Expense	0.00	1,288.46	1,500.00	211.54	
5703 Yard Sale Expenses	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	
5705 Brunswick Stew Expenses	0.00	0.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	
5707 History Room Expenses	0.00	386.99			
Total Fundraising Expenses		\$0.00	\$1,675.45	\$3,300.00	\$2,011.54
Difference	Total Expenses		\$16,651.42	\$126,768.55	\$249,351.00
	(\$7,179.82)	(\$26,393.61)	(\$61,061.00)		

The Pastor's Insurance and Annuity were paid in August. You will see a higher amount on the next month's report that will reflect the payment.

--Melinda & Yvonne